

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 03377 302329Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 MCT-01
EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 SY-05 USSS-00 IO-14 (ISO) W
-----310006Z 130419 /61

O R 302256Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6193

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 03377

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PINS, GT, ES, IDB

SUBJ: GUATEMALAN TERRORISTS CRITICIZE IDB, PROMISE RELEASE OF
SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR

REF: GUATEMALA 3374

1. SUMMARY. GUATEMALAN LEFT-WING TERRORIST GROUP EGP ISSUED
COMMUNIQUE CLAIMING CREDIT FOR KIDNAPPING OF SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR
AND PROMISING HIS LIFE WILL BE SPARED IF COMMUNIQUE READ AT
OPENING SESSION IDB MEETING MAY 30 AND TEXT DISTRIBUTED TO ALL
DELEGATES. THIS HAS BEEN DONE. NO WORD YET ON WHEREABOUTS
OR CONDITION OF AMBASSADOR CASANOVA. END SUMMARY.

2. ABOUT MIDNIGHT MAY 29 LETTER ADDRESSED TO IDB PRESIDENT ANTONIO
ORTIZ MENA WAS DELIVERED TO HOME OF RODOLFO MARTINEZ FERRATE,
GUATEMALAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IDB. MARTINEZ TOOK LETTER TO ORTIZ
WHO AUTHORIZED ITS DISTRIBUTION TO THE PRESS AND ITS READING AT
INAUGURAL SESSION OF IDB CONFERENCE MORNING MAY 30.

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PAGE 02 GUATEM 03377 302329Z

3. COVERING LETTER TO ORTIZ SAYS "THIS AFTERNOON GUERRILLA
UNITS OF THE GUERRILLA ARMY OF THE POOR (EGP) CAPTURED THE
AMBASSADOR OF EL SALVADOR, COL. EDUARDO CASANOVA, A KNOWN CRIMINAL
WHO DURING THE TIME HE WAS CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THAT
COUNTRY MURDERED AND CAUSED TO DISAPPEAR HUNDREDS OF SALVADORAN
REVOLUNTARIES AND PATRIOTS, AND WHO NOW IS THE LIASION BETWEEN THE
REACTIONARY AND REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS OF (SALVADORAN PRESIDENT)

MOLINA AND (GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT) LAUGERUD. THE EGP HOLDS YOU (ORTIZ MENA) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FATE OF THIS CRIMINAL. TO SAVE HIS LIFE, YOU MUST COMPLY IMMEDIATELY WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITION: TO HAVE READ, AT A PLENARY SESSION OF THE XVIII ASSEMBLY OF THE IDB, THE COMMUNIQUE THAT WE ENCLOSE, AND TO ORDER THAT IT BE REPRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL THE DELEGATES, OBSERVERS, AND GUESTS OF THAT MEETING, AS WELL AS TO THE PRESS. IF YOU COMPLY WITH THIS SINGLE CONDITION, WE OFFER IN ADDITION THAT AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE THEIR SECURITY GUARANTEED."

4. FIVE-PAGE SINGLE-SPACED COMMUNIQUE ENCLOSED WITH THE LETTER IS ON USUAL EGP LETTERHEAD WITH DRAWING OF CHE GUEVARA. IT MAKES NO REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR CASANOVA OR HIS KIDNAPPING, LEADING TO SPECULATION THAT IT WAS DRAFTED IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE AND OF THE KIDNAPPING, COULD HAVE BEEN ISSUED - ALTHOUGH CERTAINLY WITH LESS EFFECT - REGARDLESS OF WHETHER A SUCCESSFUL TERRORIST ACT WAS CARRIED OUT OR NOT. COMMUNIQUE SAYS IDB MEETING IN GUATEMALA FOR TWO REASONS: TO PREVENT THE WORLD PRESS FROM BEING ABLE TO REPORT FIRST-HAND "THE MASSIVE CRIMES" OF MOLINA AND PRESIDENT-ELECT ROMERO (COMMITTED "WITH THE ADVICE OF OFFICERS SENT BY LAUGERUD"), AND TO LEND SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF LAUGERUD, WHICH IS CONFRONTED WITH A "GENERALIZED POPULAR OPPOSITION." THE "GOVERNORS, BANKERS, OFFICIALS, AND EMPLOYEES OF IMPERIALISTIC FIRMS OF THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING ARE MISTAKEN IF THEY BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN STILL DECEIVE THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE....WITH THEIR FINANCIAL POLICY AT THE SERVICE OF THE DOMINANT CLASSES OF THE US, OF THE GREAT MONOPOLIES, AND OF THE GREAT OLIGARCHUES OF LATIN AMERICA.... UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 GUATEM 03377 302329Z

EGP EXPRESSES IT SOLIDARITY WITH THE SALVADORAN PEOPLE AND WITH PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA IN THEIR REJECTION OF THE ASSEMBLY.... (AND) ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE POPULAR FORCES OF LIBERATION (FPL), FARABUNDO MARTIN IN OUR SISTER COUNTRY."

5. AFTER PASSING ATTACKES ON GOG AND GOES, COMMUNIQUE CONCENTRATES ITS VERBIAGE ON THE IDB. IT CONCLUDES, "AND WE WARN THAT IT WOULD BE A TRAGIC MISTAKE TO CONSIDER THAT THE EXPANSION OF THE IDB IS IDENTIFIED WITH DEVELOPMENT, PROGRESS, AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. ON THE CONTRARY, WE, THE EGP, CONSIDER THAT IT SIGNIFIES, IN THE LONG OR SHORT RUN, THE POLARIZATION OF THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN EXPLOITED AND EXPLOITERS, BETWEEN THE DOMINANT AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, BETWEEN RICH AND POR."

6. COMMENT: WHETHER PLANNED LONG AHEAD OR AT LAST MINUTE, THE REQUIREMENT THAT THEIR COMMUNIQUE BE READ DURING IDB PLENARY AS A CONDITION OF CASANOVA'S RELEASE WAS A MASTER-STROKE OF PUBLICITY-SEEKING EGP. WIDESPREAD VIEW HERE IS THAT EGP WILL HONOR ITS PLEDGE

TO SAVE CASANOV'S LIFE, BUT WE NOTE THAT LETTER DOES NOT PROMIST
HIS IMMEDIATE RELEASE NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT OTHER CONDITIONS
(SUCH AS RANSOM) MAY NOT BE ATTACHED LATER. AS OF 1630 HOURS
GUATEMALA TIME, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER WORD ON AMBASSADOR'S
WHEREABOUTS OR CONDITION.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, AMBASSADORS, TERRORISTS, COMMUNIQUES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DEVELOPMENT BANKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GUATEM03377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770192-0923
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977055/aaaaadue.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 14893d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GUATEMALA 3374
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2491121
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUATEMALAN TERRORISTS CRITICIZE IDB, PROMISE RELEASE OF SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PINS, GT, ES, IDB, (CASANOVA SANDOVAL, EDUARDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/14893d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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22 May 2009
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